

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A character provision service system for providing characters to a user-side apparatus, said system comprising:

generation means for generating a character capable of making a designated motion; and

computation means for computing a charge for the character on the basis of the motion of the character,

wherein said computation means performs the computation on the basis of the number of parts moved in the motion.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A system according to claim 2;~~ A character provision service system for providing characters to a user-side apparatus, said system comprising:

generation means for generating a character capable of making a designated motion; and

computation means for computing a charge for the character on the basis of the motion of the character,

wherein said computation means performs the computation on the basis of the amount of movement of the motion, and the amount of movement is the number of frames in which a moving image of the character is displayed.

4. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein said computation means performs the computation on the basis of the period of time during which the motion is continued.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein said computation means performs the computation on the basis of the amount of change in the motion.

7. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein said computation means performs the computation on the basis of a motion mode of the motion.

8. (Original) A system according to claim 7, wherein the motion mode relates to a kind of expression of the character.

9. (Original) A system according to claim 7, wherein the motion mode relates to a kind of method for a conversation held by the character.

10. (Original) A system according to claim 7, wherein the motion mode relates to a kind of personality of the character.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A system according to claim 1 further comprising:~~ A character provision service system for providing characters to a user-side apparatus, said system comprising:
generation means for generating a character capable of making a designated motion;
computation means for computing a charge for the character on the basis of the motion of the character;
measuring means for measuring the motion of the character,
wherein said computation means performs the computation on the basis of the measured motion of the character.

12. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the character is encrypted and the user-side apparatus has information for decrypting the character.

13. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein access to the character is restricted and the user-side apparatus has authentication information for enabling access to the character.

14. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the character is generated and moved by processing character data formed from a plurality of images by executing a character display/control program.

15. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus for providing a character to a user-side apparatus, said information processing apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving information designating a motion of the character; and

computation means for computing a charge for the character on the basis of the motion of the character,

wherein said computation means performs the computation on the basis of the number of parts moved in the motion.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus according to claim 16;~~ An information processing apparatus for providing a character to a user-side apparatus, said information processing apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving information designating a motion of the character; and

computation means for computing a charge for the character on the basis of the motion of the character.

wherein said computation means performs the computation on the basis of the amount of movement of the motion, and the amount of movement is the number of frames in which a moving image of the character is displayed.

18. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said computation means performs the computation on the basis of the period of times during which the motion is continued.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said computation means performs the computation on the basis of the amount of change in the motion.

21. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said computation means performs the computation on the basis of a motion mode of the motion.

22. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the motion mode relates to a kind of expression of the character.

23. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the motion mode relates to a kind of method for a conversation held by the character.

24. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the motion mode relates to a kind of personality of the character.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus according to claim 15 further comprising:~~ An information processing apparatus for providing a character to a user-side apparatus, said information processing apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving information designating a motion of the character;

computation means for computing a charge for the character on the basis of the motion of the character; and

measuring means for measuring the motion of the character,

wherein said computation means performs the computation on the basis of the measured motion of the character.

26. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the character is generated and moved by processing character data formed from a plurality of images by executing a character display/control program.

27. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus provided with characters from a character providing apparatus, said information processing apparatus comprising:

designation means for designating a motion of the character; and

display means for displaying the character moving on the basis of the designation by said designation means,

wherein said designation means designates the number of parts moved in the motion.

28. (Canceled).

29. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus according to claim 28, An~~
information processing apparatus provided with characters form a character providing
apparatus, said information processing apparatus comprising:

designation means for designating a motion of the character; and

display means for displaying the character moving on the basis of the
designation by said designation means,

wherein said designation means designates an amount of movement of the
motion, and the amount of movement is the number of frames in which a moving image of the character is displayed.

30. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein said designation means designates a period of time during which the motion is to be continued.

31. (Canceled).

32. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein said designation means designates an amount of change in the motion.

33. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein said designation means designates a motion mode of the motion.

34. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the motion mode relates to a kind of expression of the character.

35. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the motion mode relates to a kind of method for a conversation held by the character.

36. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the motion mode relates to a kind of personality of the character.

37. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the character is encrypted and said apparatus has information for decrypting the character.

38. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein access to the character is restricted and said apparatus has authentication information for enabling access to the character.

39. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the character is generated and moved by processing character data formed from a plurality of images by executing a character display/control program.

40. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling an information processing apparatus for providing a character to a user-side apparatus, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving information designating a motion of the character; and

computing a charge for the character on the basis of the motion of the character,

wherein, in said computing step, the computation is performed on the basis of the number of parts moved in the motion.

41. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling an information processing apparatus provided with a character from a character providing apparatus, said method comprising the steps of:

designating a motion of the character; and

displaying the character moving on the basis of the designation in said designation step,

wherein, in said designating step, the number of parts moved in the motion is designated.

42. (Currently Amended) A recording medium on which a program for controlling an information processing apparatus for providing a character to a user-side apparatus is stored, said program comprising the steps of:

receiving information designating a motion of the character; and

computing a charge for the character on the basis of the motion of the character,

wherein, in said computing step, the computation is performed on the basis of the number of parts moved in the motion.

43. (Currently Amended) A recording medium on which a program for controlling an information processing apparatus provided with a character from a character providing apparatus is stored, said program comprising the steps of:

designating a motion of the character; and

displaying the character moving on the basis of the designation in said designation step,

wherein, in said designating step, the number of parts moved in the motion is designated.